

Abstract

Including a coupler that is connected to the customer's line provides a capability for routing calls that are destined to different called numbers to a single customer line.

- 5 The coupler includes a module for detecting called number ID signals received at the customer line, a switch interposed between the customer's line and port to which customer premises equipment may be connected, and circuitry for detecting when the customer premises equipment goes off hook. The coupler can also be embedded within the customer premises equipment. Alerting signals are applied to the port to which the
- 10 customer premises equipment may be connected based on the called number ID signals and on the off hook state of the port to which the customer premises equipment may be connected. In some embodiments, the alerting signals also depend on additional criteria. Also, the alerting signals may be provided by the customer's line, or generated within the coupler.

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